SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

GETTING READY FOR FREE SUGAR

Plantations Beginning To Husband Resources To Meet Strain In 1916

Heavy Balances January First In Part Due To Shortage in Supply Accounts

All of the plantations are getting ready to face the free sugar issue of 1916. The first essential will be that of being in a position to finance their own operations. With the situation entirely problematic after May 1, 1916, the planters will be in no position to borrow funds from bankers to continue the operation of enterprises from which all protection and the hope of immediate profits has been withdrawn.

During the fifteen months now intervening the companies must put their properties in as high a state of physical condition as is possible—get mills and flumes and transportation methods tuned up to the highest standard of efficiency—but at the same time they must look ahead and lay by a sufficient working capital also. The planters have already begun to get ready, and they only have fifteen months more to do it in—to get completely ready for "free sugar."

Balances Forwarded January First

The condition of some of the plantations in which the public is most heavily interested, and the stocks of which are widely held may be determined from a statement of their balances carried forward at the beginning of the year.

The Alexander & Baldwin plantation balances were as follows: Hawaiian Commercial, $886,749; Hawaiian Sugar, $443,631; Kahuku, $48,746; Maui Agricultural, $565,333; and McBryde, $108,285.

J. P. Cooke stated in explanation of these balances that all are higher than is usual at this time of the year because there is a general shortage of supplies, especially bags and coal. Several cargoes of coal are expected but they cannot be charged against the plantations until received. The same is true of the sugar bag account, he stated.

McBryde's Situation Noteworthy

The favorable situation of McBryde deserves particular mention. At the close of business, December 31, 1913, there was a debit balance of over $90,000. The balance January 1, 1915, was $58,000 more than the agents' estimate.

All of the A. & B. plantations are in good shape and enter the new year under extremely favorable conditions.

All Plantations in Good Shape

The Brewer & Company plantations showed credit balances carried forward January 2, 1915, as follows: Hawaiian Agricultural, $172,415, in agents' hands and $174,459, sugars abroad; Honomu, $88,550; Onomea, $223,784; Pepeekeo, $187,581; and Wailuku, $108,261.

Balances carried forward by the Castle & Cooke plantations January 2, 1915, were as follows: Ewa, $319,896; Waialua, $301,424; and Kohala, $83,038.

H. Hackfeld & Company report balances forward as follows: Pioneer, $369,596; Oahu Sugar Co., $1,100,240. The latter plantation is financing the great Waiahole irrigation project and must also prepare to take care of the 3000 acre tract of virgin cane land which is to be planted for 1917.

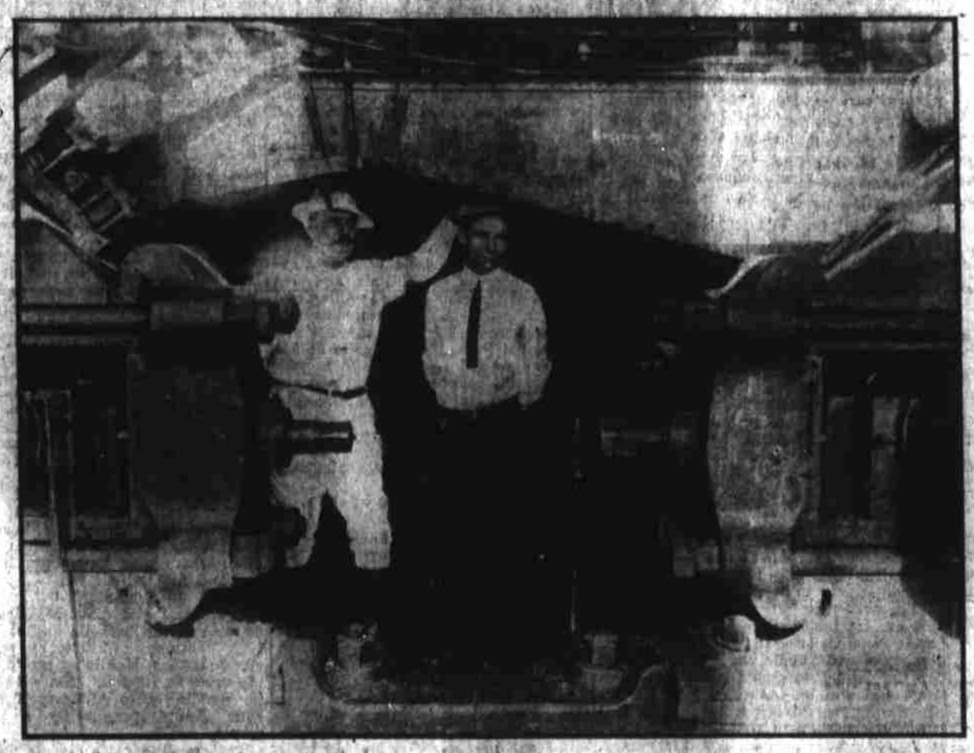
PREDICTS SHORTAGE AND HIGH PRICES

Montana Beet Grower Thinks European Sugar Exports Will Be Prohibited

CHICAGO, December 29.—An opinion of what the American citizen will have to pay for sugar in the future, set forth by T. S. Hogan, of Billings, Mont., president of the Interstate Beet Growers' Association, looks a bit extreme. He says the price will jump to $8 a hundred within the next 18 months, and possibly to $10. The shortage will grow greater and greater as the months go on, he declared. The cutting off of exports from Europe was set forth as the principal reason for expecting this rise.

The particular occasion for making this prophecy is to show the growers of sugar beets that they must demand better pay from the sugar companies. Mr. Hogan suggests a flat rate of $6 a ton, along with a division of the profits. Also, there should be a stipulation that the United States Department of Commerce shall act as arbitrator in case of disputes. In the absence of a participation in the profits, the flat rate should be $7 to $9, he says. The Michigan growers already have contracted at $6. The farmers are urged to plant on a large scale.

Ramsay Intermediate Conveyor At Pioneer. Photograph Taken While the Mill Was Running Full Blast, Showing William A. Ramsay, the Inventor, and Manager L. Weinzheimer Under Trough



OFFICIAL ORDERS TO AFFECT SUGAR

Prussian Minister of Agriculture Advises German Farmers Not To Plant Beets

Quick Maturing Food Crops Should Be Substituted, Gist of Advice Given

The San Francisco Chronicle of January 3 publishes a statement which is of particular interest to planters:

"Germany will curtail the production of beet sugar and promote the output of cereals, peas and potatoes, according to a letter just received by J. Barth & Co. from the Prussian minister of agriculture. This is of particular interest here, as Germany has been one of the chief exporters of sugar, and the loss of this supply to other sugar-consuming countries must have an important bearing on the price. A translation of the letter follows.

Sugar Stock To Be Reserved

"There will be a large stock of sugar on hand at the beginning of the next campaign, which will furnish enough sugar even if only part of the acreage is planted with sugar beets. Only half the domestic production is used for home consumption, and at present only home consumption need be taken into consideration.

"Therefore, a large portion of the sugar-beet acreage will be used for planting cereals necessary for supplying the needs of the people and more important than sugar beets. This applies also to the acreage used for raising sugar-beet seed.

Food Crops Needed

"The land which will thus be released will be used: First, for summer wheat and summer rye; and, second, for barley and oats. As the prices of these products are very high and will remain so during the war the planting of the same will be as profitable as the planting of sugar beets.

"Attention is also called to peas. There is great demand for peas in the army, where they are used both fresh and canned. Peas are selling at present at very high prices and the supplies are very small; therefore, next year due attention will be paid to the planting of them. The sugar-beet fields are well suited for raising peas.

Summer Months May Bring Shortage

"Very important also is the planting of potatoes, of which in normal times large quantities are imported early in summer. On account of the war this importation will be practically impossible. Imports usually take place in the months of June, July and August, when the scarcity of food supplies might become most pressing, and, therefore, the planting of potatoes ought to be encouraged."

COOKE COMPARES '14 AND '15 CROPS

A comparison of the work of the Alexander & Baldwin plantations for the 1914 and 1915 crops shows that on January 2, 1915, 20,272 tons had been manufactured and 19,906 tons shipped. On January 3, 1914, 25,186 tons had been manufactured and 19,499 tons shipped.

In making this comparison J. P. Cooke said yesterday that the milling is a little behind what it was last year but the shipments have been kept more nearly up to full production.

RAMSAY INVENTION SUCCESS AT PIONEER

The Ramsay macerating scraper and intermediate conveyor, patented by W. A. Ramsay, superintendent of Catton, Neill & Company's machine shops combines an improved method of applying maceration water and a steel trough in which the scraper works.

It is as much as a man's life is worth to stand under the ordinary conveyors between the sets while the mill is working. The accompanying photograph taken at Pioneer while the mill was grinding full blast indicates the saving of waste. There is no drip and no loss of cane from the blanket.

Less Maceration Water Required

The Ramsay method of applying maceration water uses less water without decreasing extraction. The water is applied to the blanket before the bagasse has had an opportunity to expand and the action is that of a squeezed sponge expanding under water as compared with an expanded sponge sprinkled externally with water.

The Ramsay invention is in use at both Puunene and Pioneer and has given satisfaction at both these mills.

PATENT GRANTED ON HIND-RENTON MILL

Steel Roller Installed At Ewa Mill Is Giving Splendid Service

After a month's service on the fourth mill of the train of 18 rollers at Ewa Mill, it is announced that the new steel roller equipped with the Hind-Renton grooving is a decided success. This roller attracted the interest of local sugar men for the reason that it was the first grooved cast steel roller ever put into service. It was of a very even grain, free from all imperfections and blow holes, and when grooved, had a very smooth surface.

It was feared by some that slippage would occur between the entering bagasse and this roller, which is designed, primarily, as a feed-roll, and that there would be a rapid reduction in the diameter through wear and severe pitting. To date there has been no reduction in the diameter of the roller and there are no signs of pitting whatsoever.

No Slippage

As to the ability of this roller to feed the mill, it has been found that when a two-inch stream of water is played on the trash at the point of entrance into the mills, there is absolutely no slippage, the draining of the juice being perfect.

In discussing this roller yesterday, R. R. Hind, engineer at Ewa Mill, said that the mill equipped with this steel roller was carrying double the hydraulic load that was carried under the old and common system of grooving. Before any experiments were made at Ewa with this grooving, indicator cards were frequently taken from the engines driving the two sets of mills.

No More Steam Required

Records show that no more power is required to drive the mills equipped with the Hind-Renton system of grooving than was required under the old conditions. Indicator cards taken two years ago and again this season by Mr. Hind show that the engines develop less total power today than previously. The figures are as follows:

1912: First set of mills.....380 H. P.
Second set of mills.....295 "
1915: First set of mills.....366 "
Second set of mills.....305 "

While 10 H. P. more is required at the present time on the second set of 9-roller mills, it is because 250 tons more hydraulic weight in the aggregate is carried on this set of mills than was applied two years ago, this difference being applied to the mill in which the Hind-Renton steel feed roller is used. In both cases, the cane ground was at the rate of 60 tons per hour and the cane was of the same variety and of the same fibre content.

Groove Is Patented

One very interesting point brought out by Mr. Hind was the fact that in 1913, for the same tonnage, the surface speed of the mills varied from 17 ft. a minute on the first mill to 29 ft. a minute on the last mill, while today the surface speeds have been reduced to 12 ft. and 23 ft. respectively, although the mill settings are closer than they were two years ago.

A patent has been allowed on this grooving, word having come from Washington to this effect a few days ago.

SHORTAGE OF BAGS GETTING SERIOUS

Congestion of Through Freight In Oriental Ports Works Against Hawaii

There are not enough sugar bags in Hawaii to last out this month and the planters are not sure that enough are coming to take care of the fall harvest. A shipment is expected, or hoped for, on the Siberia. A full supply was purchased last September. It has been piled up on the Hongkong wharves and in warehouses at that port since October. The planters have written and cabled and pleaded for shipments to come forward from their Hongkong agents but without avail.

May Charter Vessel

George H. Robertson said yesterday that the planters may charter an American vessel to go after a full cargo of burlaps and bagging. Letter advices from the Orient state that through freight for the Coast is piled high on the wharves in every port from Kobe to Hongkong with no bottoms offering in which to transship for destination.

The regular mail liners touching at Honolulu have so much through freight offered that it is hard to get them to take partial cargoes for Honolulu because they cannot get enough casual freight at this port to fill their space. The 1915 shipment of sugar and pines are entirely under contract to the local liners.

May Delay Sugar Shipments

The alternative to chartering a special tramp steamer to bring the bags will be to ship direct to the Coast and return from there or pay the through rate on shipments to Honolulu.

If the bags do not come some mills will have to shut down, unless they compress the sugar into blocks as was suggested at the planter's meeting a year ago. Those plantations that have a large supply of bags are loaning to their neighbors.

The Yearly Requirements

It requires eleven million bags for the sugar crop alone. The coffee, rice and pineapple people account for another million or so every year. The bags come in bales averaging around 900 pounds each, so that the local industries eat up over 12,000 bales a year of bags and burlap.

In dead weight this would be a full cargo for one of the big American-Hawaiian freighters.

The total receipts to date amount to only 2800 bales. With the balance of the supply still in Hongkong it looks as though there may be enforced delay in grinding the latter part of the crop.

Record and Forecast of Hawaiian Sugar Crops as of Uneven Dates to Jan. 12, 1915

The Hawaiian sugar plantation fiscal year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

There are forty-five sugar mills in Hawaii. In addition thereto, there are seven independent cane planters, whose cane is ground on shares, who do business on such a large scale that their share of sugar is listed separately.

Planters without mills or not grinding their own cane are indicated hereunder by a *.

Statistics are of tons of 2000 lbs. each.

NAME OF PLANTATION.	Crop of 1914—Tons of Sugar Oct. 1, 1913, to Sept. 30, 1914.	Crop of 1915, Acreage and Sugar Factor's estimate as of Jan. 1, 1915.	Crop of 1915—Tons of Sugar Shipped, Oct. 1, 1914, to Jan. 1, 1915.	Grinding 1915 Crop Began
*Apokaa Sugar Co.	925	450		
*Estate V. Knudsen	992	920		
Ewa Plantation Co.	29,563	30,000	1,505	December 7, 1914.
*Gay & Robinson	5,172	5,000		January 2, 1915.
*Grove Farm Plantation	4,415	4,800		
Hawaiian Agricultural Co.	17,890	18,000	802	Grinding.
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co.	56,500	55,000	7,909	November 16, 1914.
Hawaiian Sugar Co.	26,826	24,000	3,413	November 18, 1914.
Hawaii Mill Co.	3,001	3,000		
Hamakua Mill Co.	7,057	11,500		January 1, 1915.
Halawa Plantation	2,087	1,600		
Honokaa Plantation Co.	16,863	16,500		January 4, 1915.
Hilo Sugar Co.	18,037	13,300		January, 1915, first week.
Honokaa Sugar Co.	7,272	10,000		January 11, 1915.
*Pacific Sugar Mill	6,250	7,000		Crop ground by Honokaa Sugar Co.
Hawi Mill & Plantation	6,743	8,600		January 8, 1915.
Honomu Sugar Co.	8,567	9,000		January 15, 1915.
Hutchinson Sugar Plantation Co.	5,909	8,000		
Honolulu Plantation Co.	20,154	19,000	1,038	December, 1914.
Kilauea Sugar Plantation Co.	6,426	5,800		December 20, 1914.
Kipahulu Sugar Co.	2,126	2,500	67	December, 1914.
Kaeleku Plantation Co.	6,225	5,500		
Kahuku Plantation Co.	8,193	7,000	2,263	October 19, 1914.
Koloa Sugar Co	8,572	8,500		December 14, 1914.
Kekaha Sugar Co.	17,153	15,100	1,069	November 25, 1914.
Kohala Sugar Co.	4,473	6,500	75	December, 1914.
Kona Development Co.	3,477	3,200		
Kaiwiki Sugar Co.	6,932	7,000		
Kukaiau Plantation Co.	3,225	3,700		
*Koolau Agricultural Co.	1,137	600		
Laupahoehoe Sugar Co.	11,193	11,300	1,466	December, 1914.
Lihue Plantation Co.	22,665	20,000	674	December, 1914.
*Laie Plantation	1,600	1,600		
Mukee Sugar Co.	10,660	10,000		
Maui Agricultural Co.	38,660	34,000	5,079	November 23, 1914.
McBryde Sugar Co.	16,345	15,000	53	January 6, 1915.
Niulii Mill & Plantation	2,700	2,500		
Oahu Sugar Co.	38,474	28,000	2,119	December 1, 1914.
Olaa Sugar Co.	25,736	32,000	1,456	December 7, 1914.
Olowalu Co.	2,027	1,850		January 2, 1915.
Onomea Sugar Co.	18,600	18,000		January 15, 1915.
Pahuhu Sugar Plantation Co.	10,767	10,000		January 8, 1915.
Pioneer Mill Co.	28,302	28,000	2,000	November 19, 1914.
Pepeekeo Sugar Co.	9,806	10,500		January 15, 1915.
*Prakee Plantation	1,035	1,200		
Union Mill Co.	2,603	3,000	66	December, 1914.
Waiakea Mill Co.	14,922	14,000	1,404	December, 1914.
Wailuku Sugar Co.	16,100	18,000		December 29, 1914.
Waialua Agricultural Co.	30,298	31,000	1,250	December 9, 1914.
Waianae Co.	3,083	4,500		
Waimanalo Sugar Co.	5,133	4,800		January 4, 1915.
Waimea Sugar Co.	2,258	1,900		
Total	617,038	613,220	33,668	

1915 HONAKAA CROP WILL BEAT RECORD

With New Mill and Improved Transportation, Honokaa Will Grind Pacific Crop

Honokaa Sugar Company commenced grinding its own crop and that of Pacific Sugar Mill last Monday. Alexander Morrison, manager of Honokaa, has written the agents, Schaefer & Company, that the new first mill recently installed by the Honolulu Iron Works is doing splendid work. The cane is ground as fine as sawdust and goes through from the first mill to the second in a thick heavy blanket.

Will Grind for Two Plantations

J. W. Waldron said yesterday that the new first mill is a very heavy steel one.

The manager believes that the increased capacity per hour as shown in the preliminary tests will make it possible for Honokaa mill to grind the crops of both plantations without any difficulty, not only handling more cane per hour but giving a marked increase in extraction. Mr. Waldron said that while it is too early to express more than an opinion he believes that Honokaa mill is now equipped to do as good work as any in the Islands.

Transportation Improvements

The management has made heavy expenditures during the last six months in improvements to the transportation system, eliminating all heavy grades and sharp curves in the permanent track. This expenditure is felt to be a step in the right direction, ensuring cheaper delivery of cane from Pacific fields to the Honokaa mill.

Honokaa is one of the oldest plantations in Hamakua, having been laid out in 1878. There have been a good many bumper crops in the last thirty-seven years as well as lean ones. There was too little rain in 1912 and 1913, while last year there was too much.

Crop May Break Record

"Field work during the last ten months of 1914 was conducted under almost impossible conditions," Mr. Waldron said. "January and February were dry. Then the flood gates opened. Our records show a total precipitation of 428.94 inches at the 1955 foot level, —thirty-five and three-quarter feet in ten months.

"At the 275-foot level, which is about the lowest point at which cane is grown on our plantations, the gauges showed 131.79 inches, or practically eleven feet of rain in the twelve months."

"The growth of the cane has been enormous," Mr. Waldron said. "We expect good crops on both plantations and I would not be surprised if the yields beat the record this year."

A. & B. ESTABLISHES NEW DEPARTMENT

S. S. Peck of Sugar Station Becomes Auditing Chemist of Plantation Group

S. S. Peck, chemist of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association's experimental station, has resigned from the staff of that institution and on the first of February will become "Auditing Chemist" for all of the Alexander & Baldwin plantations.

A Step In Advance

In the creation of this new position the agency has taken a marked step in advance exactly along the lines on which there was the most earnest discussion during the Planter's convention. It was the opinion of most of those who took part in the discussions that the maintenance of substations throughout the Islands does not yield satisfactory results, or results commensurate with the expenditures involved.

Each plantation manager should do his own experimenting but as a rule he has neither the technical traning nor the time to undertake exact experiments. The manager knows the practical points that need proof and the lines where improved methods are needed and is best fitted to outline the general problems to be solved.

Scientific Control Work

While Mr. Peck is to act as auditing chemist for the mill work of the various A. & B. plantations his principal duties will be to assist the plantation managers to carry on their ments.

J. P. Cooke stated y what he has in mind is cl control of all of these d the sugar industry where knowledge is required, t coordinate methods. "I in securing Mr. Peck have the best man ava cord as a scientific in enviable one. He is th ant with the practical technical problems con gar prospects."

Long and Efficient Se

S. S. Peck is a son Peck, the Hilo banke perience in Hawaii w Olaa coffee planters. of the University of specialized in pharma while at that institu he came to the H. S station as an assist Maxwell and has plantersʼ service fo years.

Mr. Peck has se terms as a membe board of pharmacy public service in

His work at th has been along th fertilizer control vestigations. H been directed la of mill wastes

RAINS AT WAIANAE CHANGE SITUATIO

The 1914 crop of the Waianae C pany was 4512 tons. J. M. Dow said yesterday that there have good rains in the last three week pecially in the mountains back cane fields. Conditions have vast proved and the outlook has im for both the 1916 and 1917 crop 1915 cane will not get over the of the long 1914 drought.

WET DECEMBER IN K

J. K. Clark of Hind, Rob pany stated yesterday that precipitation record at Ha in North Kona showed 9.53 fall in December out of a to inches for the year.